

Clock Stirs Controversy

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Staff Writer

Surprised students awoke Monday morning to chiming by a huge clock as they walked through the square outside Woodard Campus Center.

According to Richard Hurley, executive vice president and chief financial officer, \$24,250 of college funds were used to construct the new monument, which chimes every hour from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

According to Jeff Rountree, vice president for college development, a student committee went through pamphlets and catalogues to choose the details on the clock. In their September meeting, the BOV decided to place the clock in the square.

"I think the clock fits nicely," said John Wittenmuth, assistant vice president for Facilities Services. "Individuals who have complained that it doesn't suit the campus's overall appearance

aren't looking at the fact that we have many different styles on campus. We have several different sorts of light fixtures which the clock does compliment."

Junior Lee Miller disagreed that the clock was a positive addition to the campus center.

"When I thought clock I thought it would be tasteful, and right now it matches only the lamp posts, and it only poorly matches them. It's horrible," Miller said.

Two workers from Facility Services, who wished to remain anonymous, agreed that the clock looks out of place.

One member said, "It looks



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The clock was installed on Monday.

like it ought to be in Sweden or hung from the ceiling of a giant train station or maybe Disney World. I know I wouldn't want it in my yard."

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However, there are some students who like the new clock. Junior Ryan Thompson feels that although initial reaction to the clock may be shock, students will get used to the new monument.

"It's a wonderful time piece. It is another 'artifact.' Something to remember and something to look at," Thompson said. "Plus, I am always late to class and knowing the right time is always a good thing for me."

Wiltenmuth said the clock is hooked up to a satellite which makes the time extremely accurate. Wiltenmuth said the college selected Electric Time, a company out of Va. to make the street clock.

Cedric Rucker, dean of student life, emphasized the amount of time and attention that the student committee put forth that in selecting the details.

"The students who were involved in the selection process took the time and effort to pick out color, trimming, the face and the hands. They selected the numbers on the face and wanted to settle on a structure that would represent MWC," Rucker said.

Rucker felt that the majority of student opinion about the clock is diverse but good.

"I think student response is positive, but it is very large and new. It takes getting used to," Rucker said. "When I saw it at night, it looked amazing with students gathered around the glowing face."



Corey Byrnes/Bullet

The new clock on campus.

Senior Madelyn Marino served on the student committee that selected the design.

"We did the best with the choices were available to us," Marino said. We knew it was going to be cast iron because brick was not even an option."

Senior Kelly Turcic, former president of the SGA, also served on the committee.

"We really wanted to make sure that the base and height were aesthetically balanced and symmetrical," Turcic said. "We wanted it to go with the 'look' of the campus. I am sure they tried to match what we wanted. When I first saw it my reaction was neither positive nor negative, it was just different than what I expected."

John Pearce, director of museum programs and for the Center for Historic Preservation feels that the clock does indeed fit into the architectural structure of the campus.

"Although clocks are sometimes supported by structures echoing the nearby architecture, they are more often in contrasting materials and forms," Pearce said.

"Part of the European and American cultural tradition is for such clock-forms to be significant and usually somewhat different design features in the context of the total landscape architecture, nature, and sculptural and other embellishments. They are 'clocks' and this is how 'clocks' look."

Elizabeth Kalnen, a 1937 graduate of the college, donated \$135,000 which was designated to the Alumni Executive Center. She wanted part of her donation to pay for the chimes for the clock. According to Jeff Rountree, Kalnen wanted to make the donation in memory of her sister, Margaret Rose Kalnen Damke, a 1933 graduate of the college.

"At nearly 90 years old, Ms. Kalnen drove herself up to Fredericksburg because she hadn't seen the campus in 30 years and wanted to pick a nice spot where she and her sister could be honored," Rountree said.

Karen's name is still associated with the court area where the clock is located.

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